

# SENATE BILL No. 12

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 35-49-3.

**Synopsis:** Material harmful to minors. Removes schools and certain public libraries from the list of entities eligible for a specified defense to criminal prosecutions alleging: (1) the dissemination of material harmful to minors; or (2) a performance harmful to minors. Adds colleges and universities to the list of entities eligible for a specified defense to criminal prosecutions alleging: (1) the dissemination of material harmful to minors; or (2) a performance harmful to minors.

**Effective:** July 1, 2023.

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January 9, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 12

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 35-49-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.158-2013,
- 2 SECTION 648, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in
- 4 subsection (b) **and section 4 of this chapter**, a person who knowingly
- 5 or intentionally:
- 6 (1) disseminates matter to minors that is harmful to minors;
- 7 (2) displays matter that is harmful to minors in an area to which
- 8 minors have visual, auditory, or physical access, unless each
- 9 minor is accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian;
- 10 (3) sells, rents, or displays for sale or rent to any person matter
- 11 that is harmful to minors within five hundred (500) feet of the
- 12 nearest property line of a school or church;
- 13 (4) engages in or conducts a performance before minors that is
- 14 harmful to minors;
- 15 (5) engages in or conducts a performance that is harmful to
- 16 minors in an area to which minors have visual, auditory, or
- 17 physical access, unless each minor is accompanied by the minor's



parent or guardian;

(6) misrepresents the minor's age for the purpose of obtaining admission to an area from which minors are restricted because of the display of matter or a performance that is harmful to minors; or

(7) misrepresents that the person is a parent or guardian of a minor for the purpose of obtaining admission of the minor to an area where minors are being restricted because of display of matter or performance that is harmful to minors;

commits a Level 6 felony.

(b) This section does not apply if a person disseminates, displays, or makes available the matter described in subsection (a) through the Internet, computer electronic transfer, or a computer network unless:

(1) the matter is obscene under IC 35-49-2-1;

(2) the matter is child pornography under IC 35-42-4-4; or

(3) the person distributes the matter to a child less than eighteen (18) years of age believing or intending that the recipient is a child less than eighteen (18) years of age.

SECTION 2. IC 35-49-3-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.266-2019, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 4. (a) It is a defense to a prosecution under section 3 of this chapter for the defendant to show:

(1) that the matter was disseminated or that the performance was performed for legitimate scientific or educational purposes;

(2) that the matter was disseminated or displayed to or that the performance was performed before the recipient by a bona fide ~~school, college, university, museum, college library, or public library that qualifies for certain property tax exemptions under IC 6-1.1-10; university library~~ or by an employee of such a ~~school, college, university, museum, college library, or public library~~ university library acting within the scope of the employee's employment;

(3) that the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that the minor involved was eighteen (18) years of age or older and that the minor exhibited to the defendant a draft card, driver's license, birth certificate, or other official or apparently official document purporting to establish that the minor was eighteen (18) years of age or older; or

(4) that the defendant was a salesclerk, motion picture projectionist, usher, or ticket taker, acting within the scope of the defendant's employment and that the defendant had no financial interest in the place where the defendant was so employed.



(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), it is a defense to a prosecution under section 3 of this chapter if all the following apply:

(1) A cellular telephone, another wireless or cellular communications device, or a social networking web site was used to disseminate matter to a minor that is harmful to minors.

(2) The defendant is not more than four (4) years older or younger than the person who received the matter that is harmful to minors.

(3) The relationship between the defendant and the person who received the matter that is harmful to minors was a dating relationship or an ongoing personal relationship. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "ongoing personal relationship" does not include a family relationship.

(4) The crime was committed by a person less than twenty-two (22) years of age.

(5) The person receiving the matter expressly or implicitly acquiesced in the defendant's conduct.

(c) The defense to a prosecution described in subsection (b) does not apply if:

(1) the image is disseminated to a person other than the person:

(A) who sent the image; or

(B) who is depicted in the image; or

(2) the dissemination of the image violates:

(A) a protective order to prevent domestic or family violence or harassment issued under IC 34-26-5 (or, if the order involved a family or household member, under IC 34-26-2 or IC 34-4-5.1-5 before their repeal);

(B) an ex parte protective order issued under IC 34-26-5 (or, if the order involved a family or household member, an emergency order issued under IC 34-26-2 or IC 34-4-5.1 before their repeal);

(C) a workplace violence restraining order issued under IC 34-26-6;

(D) a no contact order in a dispositional decree issued under IC 31-34-20-1, IC 31-37-19-1, or IC 31-37-5-6 (or IC 31-6-4-15.4 or IC 31-6-4-15.9 before their repeal) or an order issued under IC 31-32-13 (or IC 31-6-7-14 before its repeal) that orders the person to refrain from direct or indirect contact with a child in need of services or a delinquent child;

(E) a no contact order issued as a condition of pretrial release, including release on bail or personal recognizance, or pretrial diversion, and including a no contact order issued under IC 35-33-8-3.6;



- 1 (F) a no contact order issued as a condition of probation;
- 2 (G) a protective order to prevent domestic or family violence
- 3 issued under IC 31-15-5 (or IC 31-16-5 or IC 31-1-11.5-8.2
- 4 before their repeal);
- 5 (H) a protective order to prevent domestic or family violence
- 6 issued under IC 31-14-16-1 in a paternity action;
- 7 (I) a no contact order issued under IC 31-34-25 in a child in
- 8 need of services proceeding or under IC 31-37-25 in a juvenile
- 9 delinquency proceeding;
- 10 (J) an order issued in another state that is substantially similar
- 11 to an order described in clauses (A) through (I);
- 12 (K) an order that is substantially similar to an order described
- 13 in clauses (A) through (I) and is issued by an Indian:
- 14 (i) tribe;
- 15 (ii) band;
- 16 (iii) pueblo;
- 17 (iv) nation; or
- 18 (v) organized group or community, including an Alaska
- 19 Native village or regional or village corporation as defined
- 20 in or established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
- 21 Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);
- 22 that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and
- 23 services provided by the United States to Indians because of
- 24 their special status as Indians;
- 25 (L) an order issued under IC 35-33-8-3.2; or
- 26 (M) an order issued under IC 35-38-1-30.

